283.8
UN3
Gp 1

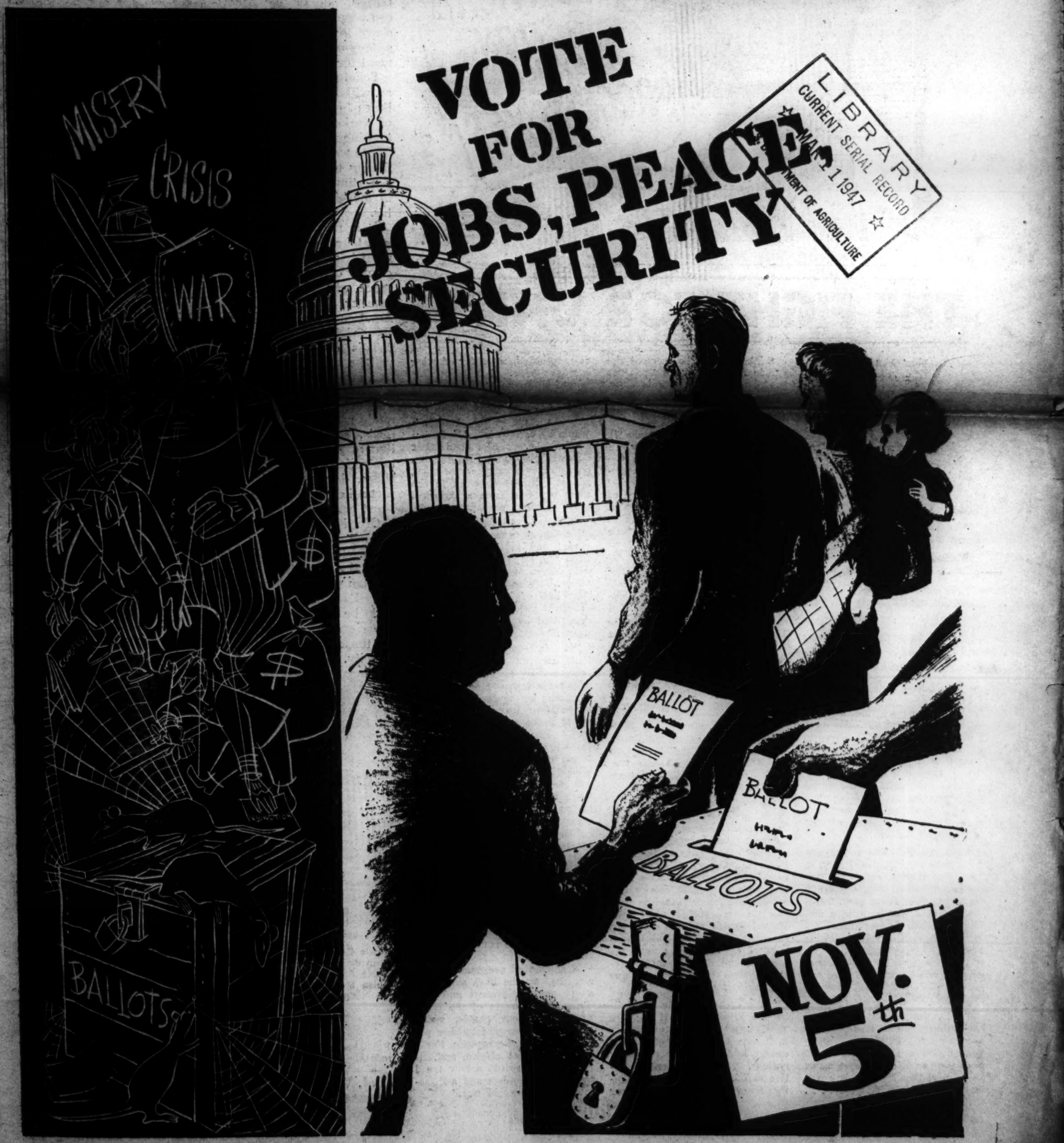
FTA

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

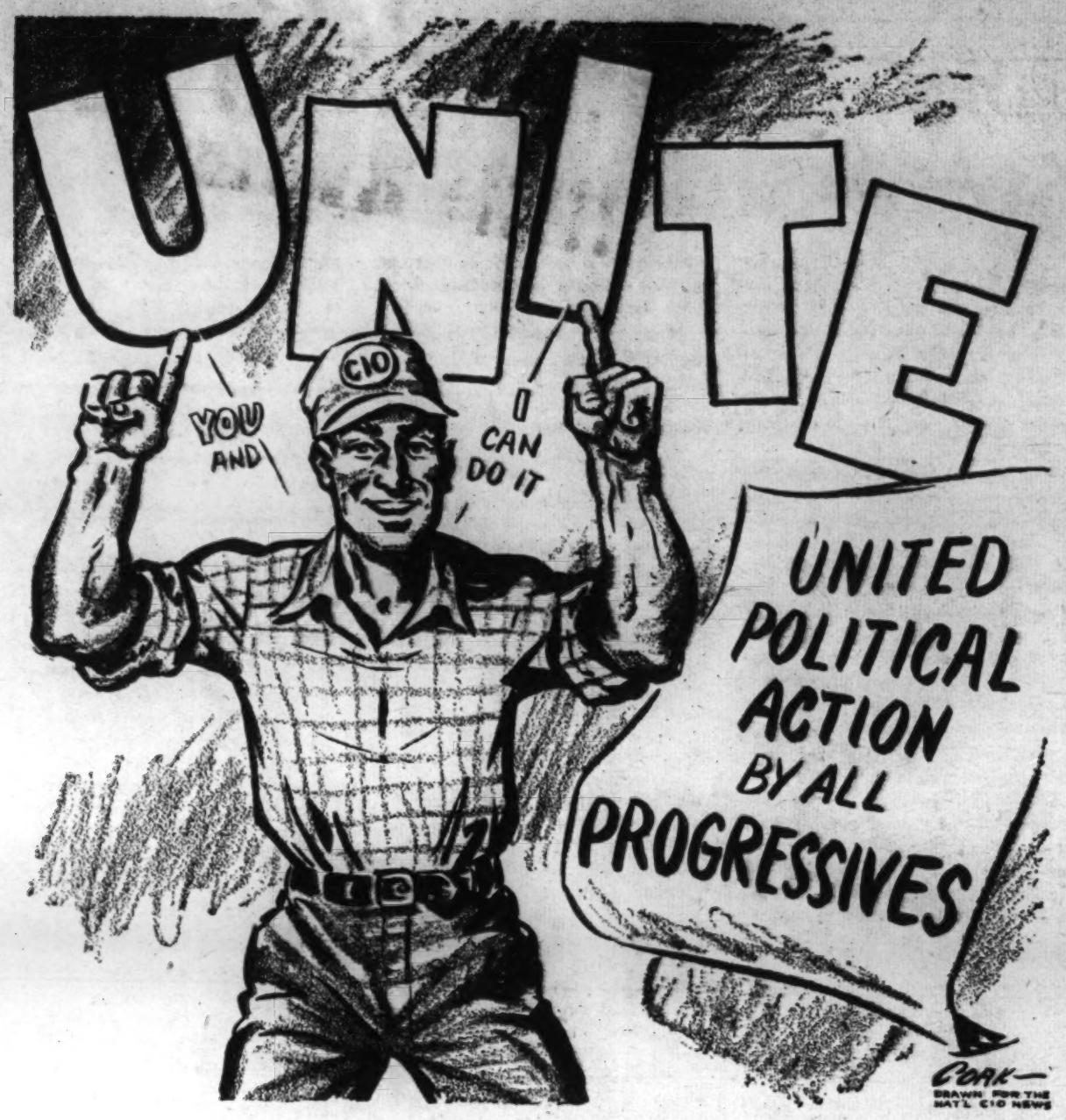
Vol. VI, No. 19 NOVEMBER 1, 1946 68 Price 5 Cents

Library
U S Dept of Agriculture
Washington D C

ALL OUT ON NOVEMBER 5!



LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
MAY 1 1947
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



CIO SLAMS AT MEAT TRUST-GOP PLOTS

Millions of Americans will continue without meat in the months ahead in spite of the decontrol order pressured out of the Administration by the meat industry.

The greedy and black marketeers will be able to afford the luxury of an adequate diet.

Prices of meat are so high most workers families will be unable to purchase any meat. Thus, the meat packers and their lackeys in Congress have imposed a reverse rationing of an essential food on the American people. Instead of a fair share to each there will be a temporary abundance of meat for the privileged few.

Senators Taft and Wherry will not hunger for the lack of protein, but millions of workers will lack important ingredients in their diet. These workers are now producing the greatest flow of peacetime goods ever made in the history of this country.

It is not likely that they will take this new denial of meat lying down. New programs of consumer resistance will be developed to counter the success of the American Meat Institute—GOP victory.

This decontrol on meat will be more destructive to our economic system than a series of atomic bombs. The chain reaction has already set in. Fats and oils, feeds, soybeans and other items have already been decontrolled — hides, leather, shoes, luggage and many more items will follow in short order.

Greed and avarice will be in control of the market place. Profiteers will allocate the available supply. Human needs will be ignored. Extreme profiteering will be imposed on the American people especially on those items of greatest scarcity. The price of butter, meat, dairy products is already beyond the workers' pocketbook. Those Congressmen who helped bring this condition about will feel the wrath of the workers at the polls next month.

Statement of Ownership

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, and March 3, 1933. FTA News, published twice a month from Sept. to July inclusive and monthly in Aug., at New York, N. Y., for Nov. 1, 1946.

State of New York,
County of New York, ss:

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared C. W. Fowler, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the FTA News and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in Section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union, CIO, 20th and Race Sts., Philadelphia 3, Pa.; Editor, C. W. Fowler, 20th and Race Sts., Philadelphia 3, Pa.; Managing Editor, Luisa Moreno, 150 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco 2, Calif.; Business Managers, None.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member must be given.) Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union, CIO, 20th and Race Sts., Philadelphia 3, Pa.: Donald Henderson, President, 20th and Race Sts., Philadelphia 3, Pa.; Harold J. Lane, Sec'y-Treas., 20th and Race Sts., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

C. W. Fowler, Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of September, 1946. Thos. R. Barby. (My commission expires Jan. 5, 1947.)

THE FIGHT FOR UNITY

As President Henderson pointed out in this space in the October 15 issue of FTA News, Henry A. Wallace performed a great service to the American people in bringing the "central issue facing the world today" to our attention.

That issue is the task of building good relations between our country and other great powers, most notably between us and the Soviet Union.

Wallace's statement was made in a speech in New York City and in a lengthy letter to President Truman. Excerpts from Wallace's letter follow:

(Note: Longer excerpts were issued this week by the FTA Education Department.)

. . . I have been increasingly disturbed about the trend of international affairs since the end of the war, and I am even more troubled by the apparently growing feeling among the American people that another war is coming and the only way that we can head it off is to arm ourselves to the teeth. Yet all of past history indicates that an armaments race does not lead to peace but to war.

" . . . In the 1938 budget, appropriations for national defense were less than a billion dollars, compared with $13,000,000,000 for the present fiscal year. Thus, even from a purely dollars and cents standpoint, American business and the American people have an interest in organizing a peaceful world in which the completely unproductive expenditures on national defense could be reduced.

" . . . Yet are we really concentrating all our efforts on a program to build a lasting peace? There can be no doubt that the American people want and expect that their leaders will work for an enduring peace. . . . I think that at the moment the people feel that the outlook for the elimination of war is dark, that other nations are wilfully obstructing American efforts to achieve a permanent peace."

"These facts rather make it appear either (1) that we are preparing ourselves to win the war which we regard as inevitable or (2) that we are trying to build up a predominance of force to intimidate the rest of mankind. How would it look to us if Russia had the atomic bomb and we did not, if Russia had 10,000-mile bombers and air bases within 1000 miles of our coastline and we did not?

"The only solution is the one which you have so wisely advanced and which forms the basis of the Moscow statement on atomic energy. That solution consists of mutual trust and confidence among nations, atomic disarmament, and an effective system of enforcing that disarmament.

"There is, however, a fatal defect in the Moscow statement, in the Acheson report, and in the American plan recently presented to the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission.

"That defect is the scheme, as it is generally understood, of arriving at international agreements by 'many stages,' of requiring other nations to enter into binding commitments not to conduct research into the military uses of atomic energy and to disclose their uranium and thorium resources while the United States retains the right to withhold its technical knowledge of atomic energy until the international control and inspection system is working to our satisfaction.

"In other words, we are telling the Russians that if they are 'good boys' we may eventually turn our knowledge of atomic energy to them and to the other nations. But there is no objective standard of what will qualify them as being 'good' nor any specified time for sharing our knowledge.

"We should make an effort to counteract the irrational fear of Russia which is being systematically built up in the American people by certain individuals and publications. The slogan that Communism and capitalism, regimentation and democracy, cannot continue to exist in the same world is, from a historical point of view, pure propaganda.

"Several religious doctrines, all claiming to be the only true gospel and salvation, have existed side by side with a reasonable degree of tolerance for centuries. This country was for the first half of its national life a democratic island in a world dominated by absolutist governments.

"It is certainly desirable that, as far as possible, we achieve unity on the home front with respect to our international relations; but unity on the basis of building up conflict abroad would prove to be not only unsound but disastrous. I think there is some reason to fear that in our earnest efforts to achieve bi-partisan unity in this country we may have given way too much to isolationism masquerading as tough realism in international affairs.

"The real test lies in the achievement of international unity. It will be fruitless to continue to seek solutions for the many specific problems that face us in the making of the peace and in the establishment of an enduring international order without first achieving an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence.

"I think that progressive leadership along the lines suggested above would represent and best serve the interests of the large majority of our people, would reassert the forward looking position of the Democratic Party in international affairs, and, finally, would arrest a new trend toward isolationism and a disastrous atomic world war."

FTA news

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

Editorial Office:
20th and Race Streets, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Donald Henderson.....General President
Harold J. Lane.....General Secetary-Treasurer

Vice-Presidents

Lewis Bentzley, John Mack Dyson, Louis F. Jedlicka, Luisa Moreno, Otis Nation (on leave), Armando Ramirez, Robbie Mae Riddick, Dixie Tiller, Armando Valdes, Owen H. Whitfield

C. W. Fowler.....Editor

Subscription: $1 a year to non-members

"Reentered as second class matter December 30, 1944, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Published twice a month from September to July inclusive and monthly in August at 838 Greenwich Street, New York 14, N. Y.

Vol. VI November 1, 1946 No. 19

Murray Calls CIO Convention

The "terrifying drift toward war" and the massing of reactionary forces against labor must be fought with all our united strength, CIO President Philip Murray said this week in announcing the date of the eighth convention of the national CIO.

The convention will be held in the Chelsea Hotel, Atlantic City, N.J., starting November 18, President Murray said.

In issuing the call, signed by both Murray and CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey, Murray said:

"The world has just emerged from an agonizing conflict in which the united strength of the common people defeated the forces of Nazism and Japanese militarism. But momentous tasks are still before us.

"Remnants of evil forces are still at work sowing the seeds of disunity and prejudice. We must recognize that at present there is a terrifying drift toward war.

"Enemies of organized labor have amassed tremendous resources and are embarked on a campaign to undermine trade unions and thereby defeat the efforts of the working people to improve their standards of living.

"The aspirations of our members and other peaceloving and democratic forces are simple but far-reaching. They are embodied in the principles so eloquently espoused by our late President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"We seek freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech, assembly and free association. We demand the realization of President Roosevelt's Economic Bill of Rights.

"We demand the strengthening of unity among the United Nations to assure an enduring peace and abolish war—so abhorred by all humanity.

"The Congress of Industrial Organizations, through its leadership at home and in international labor affairs, reflects the desires and hopes of the common people. We should expect the enmity of those hostile forces determined to deprive the common men and women of the fruits of our recent victory."

Appeal Boss Justice To State Supreme Court

Local 22's fight for justice against police brutality in Winston-Salem continued this week when the local appealed the case of Director Phil Koritz and two of the three union members arrested last August on the leafhouse picket line, to the North Carolina Supreme Court.

The appeal was made after the county court increased their sentences to 12 months on the county roads for Koritz; 10 months for Cal Jones, an R. J. Reynolds worker; and eight months for Margaret DeGraffenreid, striker and mother of three children. Betty Williams, who had previously been given a suspended sentence by the city court, was acquitted by the county court.

The four were arrested and held on charges of "resisting arrest" when police crashed the leafhouse picket line last August even though the pickets had left one gate open for trucks to go through. Margaret DeGraffenreid was so badly beaten on her face, head and arms that she has been receiving hospital treatment ever since the police attack.

Union lawyers I. Duke Avnet and Wm. Dalton are basing the appeal on the unfair selection of jurors in the county court. Only property owners may serve on the jury in North Carolina, thus eliminating 55 percent of the white population and 95 percent of the Negro population from jury duty.

When the lawyers protested the "lily-white" jury, the county judge sought out five Negroes to serve on the jury. It is the first time anyone can remember a Negro serving in the jury box of the county court.

County Solicitor Earl MacMichaels is so mad at Local 22 for helping to defeat him in the Democratic primaries last May that he swore to have the charges changed to "incitement to riot." While he did not succeed in this, he did prejudice the jury by trying to prove that the peaceful pickets could have started a race riot when the police charged down on them.

In response to a letter of protest from Miriam Cliff, President of FTA tobacco Local 638, Lancaster, Pa., Winston-Salem Police Chief Gold said:

"You may be assured that it is and has been the policy of this department to maintain a fair and impartial attitude towards both striker and employer and to see that the rights of both are protected, according to the law."

When union people, peacefully picketing, are beaten brutally by the cops, that's "fairness". And when seven carloads of police, newspapermen and photographers move in on them at the beckon of the boss' finger, that's "impartiality", according to Chief Gold's way of thinking.

FTA members are urged to write Governor Cherry at the State House, Raleigh, N. C., to protest this persecution of FTA people.

Demand Release Local 22 Strikers

Protesting the strong-arm, union-busting tactics of the Winston-Salem police, the FTA Northeastern Regional Council called on Governor Cherry, Mayor Lentz and Police Chief Gold to release the four Local 22 leaders held on charges of resisting arrest. They also demanded that "such brutal attacks on striking workers must not occur again."

"The police force is established for the protection of the people and as such must be free of domination of the R. J. Reynolds Company or any other undue influence which threatens the right of workers to strike for a decent American standard of living," the letters, signed by Regional Director Armando Ramirez, said.

Columbia, Tenn., Victims Freed

History was made in a small Tennessee courtroom in Lawrenceburg, Tenn., when an all-white jury of 12 southerners freed 23 among 25 Negroes of murder charges pinned on them by lynch-minded county officials.

The verdict, handed down October 5, came as a total surprise to the defendants and their attorneys who had sat in the courtroom since August 31 listening to themselves described as "rats" and would-be murderers because they defended themselves against a mob of armed white men who stormed through the Negro community of Columbia, Tenn., last February 5.

They weren't the only ones surprised. Judge Joe M. Ingram, who made no secret of his prejudice against the defendants, turned pale when he read the slip of paper handed him by the jury foreman. Another sick looking character was Prosecutor Paul Bumpus, who had threatened to resign as attorney general if the jury failed to send the Negroes to jail for 21 years.

The decision of the jury also included a guilty verdict for two of the 25 defendants, Robert Gentry and John McKivins. But the evidence against them is so slender that it was not expected to stand up in Tennessee supreme court, to which defense attorneys will appeal.

The outbreak of terror in Columbia, Tenn., started last February 5, when James Stephenson, a Negro veteran, hit a white storekeeper who had kicked his mother.

As rumors of a lynching spread, the entire Negro community went behind closed doors while a mob of whites went looking for Stephenson. In reprisal for the wounding of four policemen, state guardsmen and patrolmen rode through the area riddling homes and stores with machinegun fire. Hundreds of Negroes were arrested, and two were later killed in the local jail in what the sheriff alleged was an attempted jailbreak.

"American justice has triumphed over the Klan," NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White said of the verdict, but he warned that the fight is not over.

FTA Scoring High In CIO Southern Drive

Of the 170 National Labor Relations Board elections won by the CIO in the South since the drive began late last May, FTA is leading with 27 victories, CIO Organizing Committee Director Van A. Bittner reported October 8.

Running neck and neck with FTA is the International Woodworkers with 27 victories. United Steelworkers won 23, and Textile Workers, 16. United Auto Workers, and Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers are tied for fifth place.

Since then FTA has won elections at the following plants: **Dixie Leaf Tobacco Co., Kinston, N. C.:** 134 for FTA, three for AFL and 34 no union. **Interstate Tobacco Co., Lumberton, N. C.:** 129 for FTA, 48 no union. **Whitehead and Anderson, Lumberton, N.C.:** 173 for FTA. **J. P. Taylor, Goldsboro, N.C.:** 443 for FTA, 60 for AFL and 1 no union.

J. P. Taylor, South Boston, Va.: 385 for FTA and 10 no union. **Henderson Tobacco Co., Henderson, N.C.:** 94 for FTA and four no union.

Nashville Cotton Oil Co., Nashville, Tenn.: 63 for FTA and 24 for District 50, United Mine Workers, AFL. **William Johnson Co., Charleston, S.C.:** 11 for FTA and one no union. **Woodstock Manufacturing Co., Charleston, S.C.:** 105 for FTA and 26 no union. **Alabama Warehouse, Troy, Ala.:** 27 for FTA and four no union. **Standard Industrial Chemical Co., Troy, Ala.:** 80 for FTA and one no union.

The following elections were reported lost: **W. B. Lea Tobacco Co., Rocky Mount, N.C.; Imperial Tobacco Co., Winston-Salem, N.C.; G. B. Garrett Tobacco Co., Rocky Mount, N.C.** A run-off election is due at the latter.

Attention Southern Locals!

Want to help write a book? Harold Preece and Celia Kraft, well-known southern writers, are writing a book about the struggle of Southern people for democracy and happiness from the Civil War times up to the present. It will be called "The War Between The Dixies."

They would like copies of union songs and personal accounts of the struggle to organize southern workers. Send all material to FTA News.

Win 20-25c Wage Gains

Raises of 20 to 25c an hour were won recently by Local 25 at the Diamond Walnut plant in Los Angeles, Calif. Wage gains included a 20c an hour general increase plus a 1¼c attendance bonus and an additional five cents an hour to remove certain job inequities. The local also won three more paid holidays.

Negotiations were conducted under a three-year contract signed in 1945, which provided for yearly wage negotiations, paid vacations, union shop, check-off and time-and-a-half over eight hours a day.

Check-off of the three dollar assessment for which the membership had voted overwhelmingly, was also agreed to by the company.

Members of the negotiating committee were: Amelia Guenther, Ramona Winters, Mary Garcia, Charles Lawson, Charles Gallegos and Jose Luis Cruz. They were assisted by Organizer "Doc" Johnston and International Vice-President Dixie Tiller.

LOCAL 281 MOURNS

Local 281, Detroit, Mich., mourns the death of one of its most loyal and devoted members, Kathryn Bennett. Sister Bennett died on September 24 after an illness of several months.

An active member of the Local, she served as Vice-President and News Reporter, and was a delegate to the FTA National convention in 1944.

Rhine New Ind.-Ill. Regional Director

President Donald Henderson this week announced the appointment of Jessica Rhine as the new Regional Director for the Indiana-Illinois Region to replace Jack Fox who is on leave of absence for two years.

"Sister Rhine has a long history of experience in the trade union movement," Henderson said.

"We all regret the request of former Regional Director Jack Fox for a two years leave of absence."

Union Shop In Tomatoes

A milestone in the history of the tomato packing industry was reached recently with the signing of a union shop contract between Local 78 and the Western Growers Protective Association. It marks the first commodity wide union shop in small fruit.

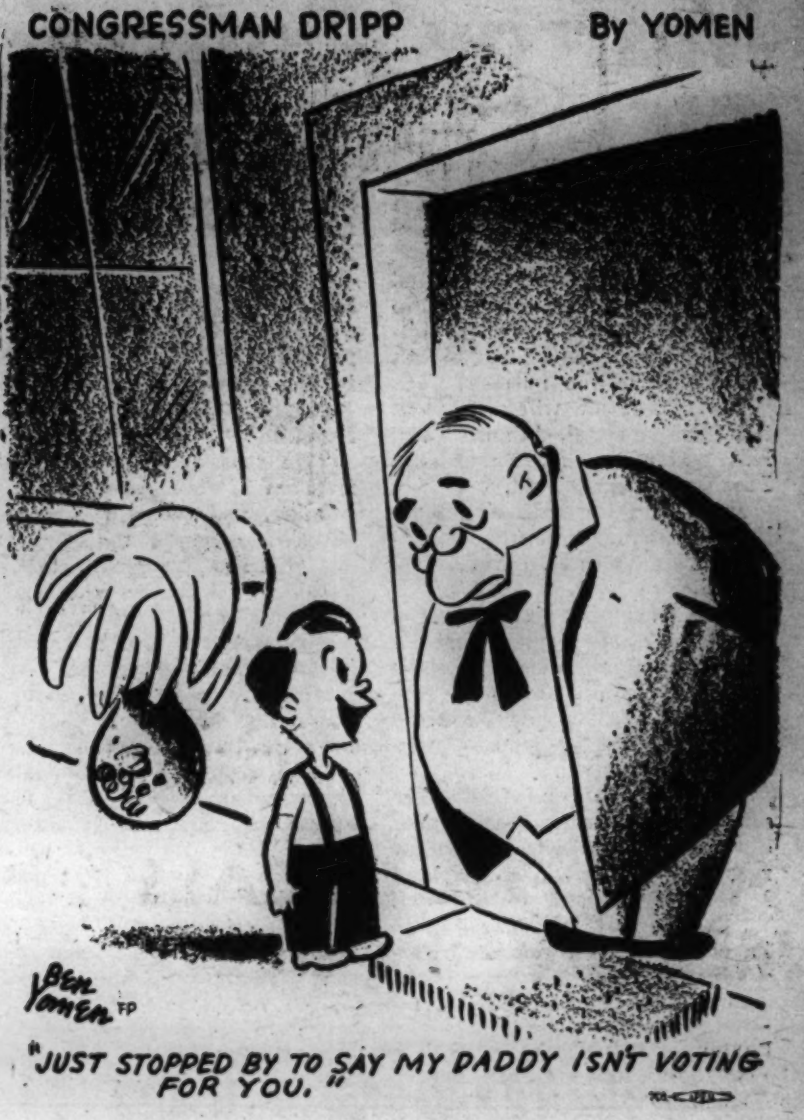
Wage increase for floor help and sorters in the tomato sheds were also won.

First union shop in the local was established in the lettuce sheds several years ago in the Imperial Valley and Yuma.

Members of the negotiating committee were: Margaret Briggs, Dewey Arrasmith, President Ralph Hargrove, Bill Humble and Dave Forbes, Local Organizers, and International Organizer Jack Montgomery.

Not many people realize it, but they own the airwaves. Radio stations own only their equipment. Airwave frequencies, without which radio cannot broadcast, are merely licensed to the station—and then only in "the public interest, necessity and convenience." Radio stations that refuse time to labor, slander unions, promote anti-labor broadcasts, can be called to account. (From "PAC Radio Handbook," obtainable from CIO-PAC, 205 East 42nd St., New York 17, N.Y.)

Local 55 members in Middletown, Ohio, just before they boarded the specially chartered bus which took them to Columbus, Ohio, to hear Senator Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) at a state-wide CIO rally on October 13. Delegation leader was Local 55 Vice President, Harlan Sorrell, third from left.



FTA Locals Pitch In To Get Out The Vote

By Connie Anderson,
FTA Education Director

As the battle-lines tighten close to election day, many FTA locals are engaged in full scale campaigns to defeat reactionary candidates, and for the election of candidates pledged to fight for laws to stop rising prices, and for other progressive measures.

Northern locals generally face the problem of defeating Republican machine candidates who are making an effort to pose as champions of the people, but who in fact ganged up with the Southern poll-tax Congressmen to defeat the Roosevelt postwar program of peace and prosperity.

Local 194 in Chicago, involved the entire membership in the registration campaign, even chartering busses to bring unregistered voters to city hall. Their plant demonstrations for the $1 PAC contribution were pictured in last issues of FTA News.

The local has mobilized key people for house to house canvassing and election day work in the wards where the Campbell Soup membership is concentrated, according to Elizabeth Wroton, Local 194 PAC Director.

In Camden, N.J., Local 80 is one of the most active CIO locals in that county, under the leadership of Bob Woolley, Local 80 PAC Chairman who has been assigned full-time to the work.

The shop stewards council heard a full-dress debate by candidates on various tickets. A number of the stewards and some rank and filers are moving into PAC Ward Clubs as canvassers, both in Camden and across the river in Philadelphia. Sound truck and plant gate meetings are planned in the area surrounding Campbell Soup and other Local 80 plants.

Philadelphia Local 186 checked the membership on registration and a number of the members are working in the neighborhood PAC clubs. In Lancaster, Pa., Local 638, the program is similar. Charlie Munn and Dot Musser are the PAC Chairmen, respectively.

In New York City, Local 273 is concentrating especially on the Vito Marcantonio campaign, since a number of the plants are located in his district. At a Klein membership meeting, following a stirring address by Marcantonio, a campaign for canvassers was launched. Remembering their recent strike victory, the members pledged to turn the picket line strength into the election.

Local 207 President Viola Castagnola was one of the leaders who sponsored and worked for the nomination of Vincent Longhi in the Republican and American Labor Party primaries. Chalking up a victory, they are now campaigning for Longhi's election, with sister Castagnola working especially on building a women's committee.

Located in the midst of an important Congressional race, Local 56 in Trenton, N.J., with Florence Mercantini as PAC Chairman, organized a successful registration campaign, followed by organizing work to "get-out-the-vote."

The Executive Board and Stewards adopted an election campaign plan in Local 55 in Middletown, Ohio which started off with collection of the $1 for PAC and a delegation to Columbus for the state-wide Sen. Claude Pepper rally. Canvassing and distribution of leaflets in the surrounding townships as well as in the Middletown precincts is being organized by Business Agent E. P. Murphy.

Executive Board members and stewards of Quaker Oats Local 120 are getting into the Akron CIO Council campaign in the wards. Congressman Walter Huber, forthright supporter of the CIO program who is being viciously attacked by the reactionaries, was invited by President Hugh Moneypenny to address their membership meeting.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Local 110 is playing a leading role in the campaign against a reactionary Congressman. A full CIO program of activity in the area includes radio broadcasts and neon signs, according to Vice-President Louis Jedlicka.

In the South, although most of the issues were settled in the primaries, Local 22 in Winston-Salem, N.C., is organizing year-round precinct clubs whose first job will be mobilization of a big pro-Folger vote on election day as a demonstration of the peoples' strength in that area.

The locals in Baltimore and many other places are on the move. The three Indianapolis locals were the first to have their membership divided by ward and precinct. FTA locals there have worked hard in the CIO campaign, according to James Barnett, Regional Rep. Other Indiana Locals are active—but Local 39 holds the crown for 100% contribution of the PAC $1.

These are the locals who have so far reported their election activities. Locals should report on their election work and results to FTA News, immediately after election day.

AID SUGAR STRIKE

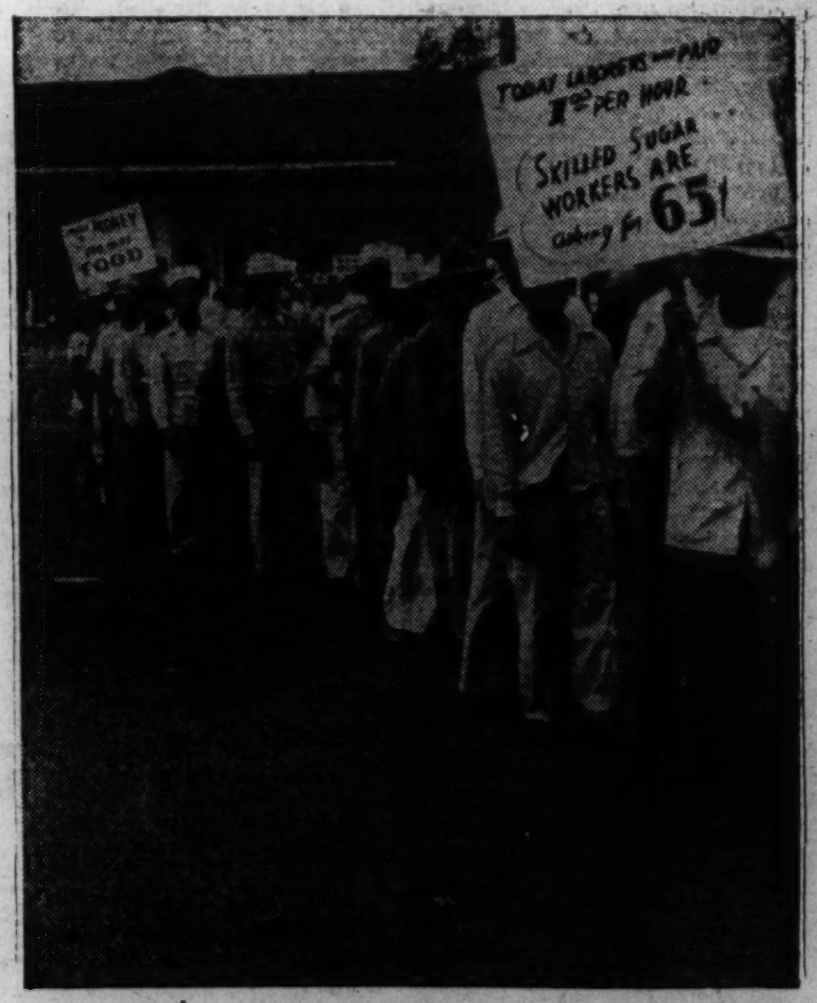
Aid for 25,000 striking Hawaiian sugar workers now in the tenth week of their strike against Hawaii's largest and most powerful industry, was urged of FTA locals last week by President Donald Henderson.

Members of the CIO Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, "they are striking against wages as low as 41c per hour and against a peonage system of colonial oppression," Henderson said.

The strike, which began September 1, is 100% effective with picket lines around 33 plantations and mills owned by the big five sugar companies.

Workers have refused to leave company-owned houses, living as usual except for picket duty. They declare that in spite of the sugar barons' attempts to smash the union they are ready to stay on strike until the companies agree to negotiate.

Contributions should be sent directly to the Territorial Strike Committee, Pier 11, ILWU, Honolulu, T.H.



Hawaiian sugar workers, members of the CIO Intl. Longshoremen and Warehousemen, are on strike for 65c an hour base wage. President Henderson this week pledged full support in a letter to all FTA locals.

VOTE NOV. 5!

FTA, N. C. FARMERS PLAN JOINT PARLEY

Continuing the pattern of cooperative relations established between the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation and FTA during the recent strikes at the Winston-Salem leafhouses, President Henderson last week received an invitation from the Farm Bureau for a joint meeting of the leaders of two organizations.

The meeting, date still to be set, will be held at the Sir Walter Raleigh Hotel in Raleigh, N.C., according to the cordial letter from the Farm Bureau Executive Secretary, R. Flake Shaw.

A previous meeting between the tobacco farmers and Local 22 during the progress of the leafhouse strikes helped influence the leafhouses to settle. Following that conference the Union received a telegram from the farmers which said:

"May we express to you on behalf of the farmers we represent, our sincere appreciation for your many courtesies and cordial reception given us yesterday. Labor was never better represented.

"May our meeting contribute something to that common understanding between labor, industry and agriculture so badly needed in our nation today."

Henderson replied "We not only appreciate the courtesy and consideration which you extended to us by discussing this problem with us privately before negotiations, but we also appreciate the remarks which you made to the joint negotiations meetings in the Winston Leaf Company negotiations."

His suggestion for a joint meeting "to discuss and explore what we can do to arrive at a better understanding of our common problems," was immediately accepted and acted upon by a recent executive board meeting of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.

FOUR FTA LOCALS MERGING IN DELTA

By Larry Larsen, Regional Director

Paving the way for greater strength and bargaining power, the membership of four Mississippi Delta locals voted unanimously to amalgamate this week. They are Locals 182, Port Gibson, Miss.; 189, Leland, Miss.; 283, Greenville, Miss.; and 232, Helena, Ark.; whose members are employed in the cottonseed oil mills and compresses in the area.

A joint meeting of the membership of the four locals is scheduled for October 30 to elect officers and apply for a charter for the new amalgamated local.

Following the unanimous vote for amalgamation, one of the members said:

"We have found out, from bitter experience in the past, that the only way workers can defend themselves and go on to bigger and better contract gains is to unite all of the cotton oil workers in Mississippi and Arkansas. We know we are fighting the Bilbos and the Rankins and it will not be easy, but together we shall win our fight and go on to achieve freedom and democracy for our people."

Confident of their united power and determined to organize all the cotton plants, the workers are already beginning to contact unorganized workers in the area with the message of the FTA-CIO.

CIO FIGHTS FOR CHILDREN'S NEEDS

"The CIO's Program for Children" was the topic of a radio program broadcast by Local 15 President Reuel Stanfield over Station WCSC in Charleston, S. C., on October 8.

"CIO's fight for maintenance of take-home pay, for full employment, for a 65c minimum wage, for unemployment compensation and for price control is a fight for America's children," Stanfield pointed out.

"When we had a war to win and conscripted our youth to fight it for us, nothing was too good for them . . . Now we have a peace to win, we want to rear our new generation in peace and give them the best in educational and physical advantages.

"CIO's fight for the children includes building up family incomes to the level where each family can fulfill its children's needs; and building up the national income so that all communities can have better public services for children, such as good schools, playgrounds, health clinics, etc."

HELP WANTED

Been missing news of your local in FTA News? Then how about electing a News Reporter at your next membership meeting?

The position is an extremely important one, and should be kept filled by an active local member at all times. In this way, the local secures publicity for its activities and gives the other locals the benefit of knowing what your local is doing.

Following election of the local's News Reporter, his or her name and address should be sent by the Executive Board to the FTA Press and Publicity Department.

TEST CANDIDATES ON ANTI-LYNCHING

Following up on the American Crusade to End Lynching, which brought nearly 3,000 delegates to Washington, D.C., Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, this week urged all NNC Councils to back only those candidates for Congress who will give positive commitments to support anti-lynching legislation.

To get NNC support, candidates must pledge in writing to press for apprehension and punishment of lynchers; passage of a federal anti-lynch law; and the denial of a seat to Bilbo in the Senate.

Never before has political action by the people been more necessary, Dr. Yergan declared. The Negro people, whose vote in many states may decide the outcome of the election, must be careful in voting, backing only those progressive candidates who will sincerely fight for democracy.

FARMER-LABOR MEET SUPPORTS WALLACE

Midwestern FTA members took part in an outstanding event last month when 222 men and women from eight states, representing veterans, farmers and organized workers met at the Farmer-Labor Educational Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., to discuss common problems.

Delegates came from 43 Farmers Union locals, 52 CIO and AFL locals and two railway brotherhood locals.

Most important action taken was the unanimous vote for a resolution supporting Henry A. Wallace's stand on American-Soviet friendship. The resolution was presented at a panel on foreign affairs and later adopted unanimously by the entire conference.

"Foreign policy has now become a matter of public discussion as a result of your actions in throwing the spotlight of criticism on the platform of Byrnes and Vandenberg," the resolution stated. "Such discussion must not be gagged. The people always must and will participate in shaping the foreign policy of our country, for it is not the privilege of a few to determine the future of mankind.

"Workers, farmers, veterans and citizens attending this conference, agree with you that 'the success of any policy ultimately rests upon the confidence and the will of the people . . . " We pledge our untiring efforts to support you in this fight to win the peace and move forward on the road to the Four Freedoms pioneered by Franklin D. Roosevelt . . . "

The conference proved to the delegates that workers and farmers do have common interests, those of economic security at home, and peace in the world. This sentiment was expressed for the farmers by Glenn J. Talbott, president of the North Dakota Farmers Union.

Talbott showed how workers and farmers have been hoodwinked into feeling that their interests are opposed instead of mutual. The lesson was learned he said, when farmers selling wheat for 25 cents, meat for two cents, dairy products for next to nothing, saw millions and millions of unemployed workers in the cities.

"During that period of the early thirties nearly a million and a quarter farmers were washed out," he said. "They drifted into the cities to swell the breadlines. It was then that we learned, through the hard school of experience, that our markets are stomachs; that if men do not have jobs, they cannot buy what we raise."

Estimating that we face 25 million unemployed, Talbott declared, "Remembering what we farmers faced with 16 million unemployed, we do not look forward with glee to the prospect of 25 million out of work."

Touching on the international situation, the Farmers Union president said that with the development of atomic power, there is no choice but peace. He suggested "it is time the little people arise, with the power of the ballot box, vote for the people who stand for the things we stand for. We are moving so fast that 1948 might be too late. We have the right to vote, for God's sake, let's use it!"

Among the 10 different topics covered at the conference were: inflation; price-wage relationship; veterans' affairs; peace and foreign policy; full employment; legislation of mutual interest to farmers and workers; cooperatives; use of education in local unions; community relations; and political action.

A continuations committee was set up by the body for further joint political action.

Charter 5 New Locals

Five new FTA locals received charters during the past few weeks.

Local 46 in Greenville, N. C., is the first local to be chartered in the current leaf house organizing drive. Members of the local work at the Imperial, Person and Garret, E. B. Ficklen, Export, and Greenville tobacco companies where FTA has won overwhelming victories.

Local 41, Rocky Mount, N. C., covers workers at the China-American, Export Leaf and W. B. Lee tobacco leafhouses.

Down in Sugarland, Texas, workers at the Marshall Canning Co. received a charter as Local 108. Officers of the new local are: Ramon Gomez, President and Jose Pachuca, Secretary.

Local 127 in Lockport, N. Y., covers workers at the Barden and Robeson plant. Officers are: Raymond Fry, President; Hilda Lenham, Vice President; Betty Ark, Recording Secretary; and Lola Weese, Secretary-Treasurer.

Local 168, Phoenix, Ariz., covers fresh fruit and vegetable field workers. Officers are: Raymond Murietta, President, and Raymond Galindo, Secretary.

"Leave a buck for PAC!"

BOARD SEES FTA GROWTH 'GREATEST IN HISTORY'

The greatest growth in the history of the union greeted the General Executive Board when it met for the first time since January, 1946, in Philadelphia, Pa.

Reporting to the Board, and through it to the membership, FTA General President Henderson and Secretary Treasurer Lane showed an increase of 35 percent in members over the period of a year ago.

LUISA MORENO

The figures break down this way:

In November, 1945, FTA had 674 plants under contract.

Today, the number is 749—an increase of 11 percent.

In November, FTA had 49,391 year round workers under contract.

Today, the number is 53,565.

In November, FTA contracts covered 75,755 workers at the peak season.

Today, FTA has 101,876 members under contract at peak.

FTA contracts, Henderson and Lane reported, have brought $25,000,000 in wage increases to FTA members since V J Day.

FTA's record in elections won is tops, especially in the Southern organizing drive, where FTA has led all other unions of the CIO in number of elections won and in number of workers involved.

And in the same period, FTA has not lost a strike—despite some pretty bitter struggles such as that in American Tobacco and D. Emil Klein.

The California cannery campaign, where despite the most extreme terror against the workers, FTA rolled up almost 48 percent of the votes to hold the AFL Teamsters well below a majority, was also the subject of the officers' report and of Board discussion and action.

By a unanimous vote it was decided to carry on the fight until the cannery workers have the right, free from intimidation and illegal conditions, to choose their own union to bargain with the cannery employers.

"FTA has made excellent progress since our last Board meeting," President Henderson said. "Our union is stronger, more unified, in a better position to make advances for the workers than ever before in its history."

This has been achieved, he added, in the face of more difficult conditions than were encountered even during the war period, and in the face of severe struggles even to maintain our position, let alone improve it.

"FTA's growth is due to a militant, courageous, hard-hitting leadership and rank and file all down the line," Henderson added. "It is also due to plenty of hard work on the part of everybody — officers, organizers, staff people, and the determination of our membership."

Turning to an analysis of the present economic and political situation, Henderson declared:

"The basic situation in this country has worsened considerably since last January. Reaction, both in domestic and foreign questions, has strengthened itself greatly.

"Labor and progressive forces have suffered sharp setbacks from their postwar program of economic welfare at home and Big Three unity and cooperation abroad.

"Big business has been successful in its planned offensive to take the country back to the blessings of 'free enterprise.' In this drive, it has had the sometimes confused but none the less complete concurrence of President Truman and his Administration."

On foreign relations, Henderson pointed out that the same big business gang, and the same Administration and Congressional leaders, have succeeded in taking our policy away from that laid down by Roosevelt.

"They have a policy which subordinates the basic issue facing the world today—the issue of friendly, constructive relations between the United States and the Soviet Union," he said.

"The present foreign policy practised by the U.S. subordinates the issue of good relations

OWEN WHITFIELD

between the two most powerful countries in the world to an attempt on all fronts to curb and minimize the influence of the Soviet Union.

"At the same time, this policy seeks to cut down the spread of democracy throughout the world, in a desperate attempt to halt the growth of people's governments and the spread of democratic principles."

Great Britain's game in this situation, Henderson pointed out, is to aid and abet the line of Hoover - Vandenberg - Byrnes in crushing democracy and curbing

The FTA General Executive Board was half way through its meeting as FTA News went to press.

The November 15 issue will carry a full report of Board decisions and text of all resolutions.

JOHN MACK DYSON

the influence of the USSR, as a means of propping up their shaking colonial empire.

"Such a policy is extremely dangerous," he said. "There is no immediate danger of war, but the conditions for World War III are being laid down now.

"And unless this policy is reversed, World War III will become inevitable."

The same approach applies to all world and domestic situations, Henderson pointed out, adding that the reactionary leadership of the AFL was playing big business' game for all it is worth.

"The World Federation of Trade Unions has considered this problem, and has faced it though as yet not too effectively," he said. "Meantime, the top leadership of the AFL carries on a drive aimed at splitting all labor, not only here in the U.S. but all over the world.

"In doing this, they line up with the reactionary coalition in Congress and with the reactionary foreign policy of Hoover-Vandenberg and Byrnes.

"Their aim is split the labor movement on a worldwide scale and to return world labor to the impotent state it was in before World War II."

This was one of the most se-

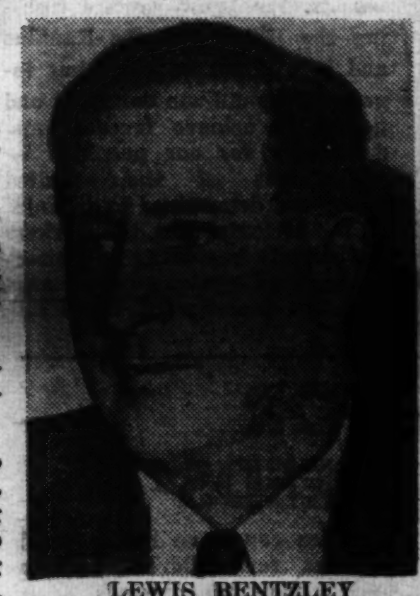
DIXIE TILLER

rious dangers facing American labor, he explained, pointing out that a sharp division into "right" and "left" camps would enable reaction to carry on its drive to war and the destruction of all labor almost unhindered.

"The top leadership of the AFL—and, I regret to say, some forces in the CIO—have taken over completely the big business line of redbaiting as their principal weapon against all progress."

The redbaiting line has been defeated in several instances within the CIO, he said, citing the recent fight against disruption in the UE, the Shoe Workers and Furniture Workers Unions, and others.

It will take all our strength and all our unity to defeat this conspiracy against progressivism, he said, not only on the front of world relations but also on the domestic front as well.



LEWIS BENTZLEY

ROBBIE MAE RIDDICK

Reporting on the union's finances, growth in dues paying membership, and general consolidation, Secretary Treasurer Lane drew a picture of continued progress since the last budget period.

At the same time, he pointed out that FTA is spending more of its income on organizing than ever before in history, that all the union's costs are going up, and will go up still further in the months ahead, and that severe struggles lie ahead.

Both Lane and Henderson recommended wage increases for FTA officers, staff members and organizers, in which the Board concurred and ordered to be paid.

Lane also reported on the heavy costs of the California cannery campaign, during an extended discussion by the Board which ended in a unanimous vote to carry on the fight until victory.

We're in a healthy state financially and organizationally," Lane said. "At the same time, we must not forget the campaigns ahead and we must continue to consolidate our growth as we go along."

ARMANDO RAMIREZ

ARMANDO VALDEZ

LOUIS JEDLICKA

As FTA News went to press, the Board had discussed and voted on the California campaign, had endorsed Henderson's and Lane's reports, ordered contracts containing less than the union shop to be subject to international officers' approval, and was proceeding to take up other reports and resolutions.

CASE STUDIES IN CONGRESS

VITO MARCANTONIO

ALP, 18th District, New York

Every fink, fascist and phoney from one end of the U. S. to another—and lots outside it, too—will sleep better at nights if Vito Marcantonio is defeated November 5.

Every worker, every housewife, every anti-fascist will lose a tried and powerful friend.

The reason is simple. Marcantonio has always fought for the workers and the common people, whether they live in New York or Mississippi or anywhere in the world. What's more, Marcantonio has fought effectively.

As long as "Marc" stays in Congress, we can feel sure that no dirty trick will slip by for want of watching, that no Rankin fast ones will get over without a fight. Marc knows how to fight; he knows parliamentary rules better than anyone in the House—and he never compromises on principle.

Marc's voting record is perfect. Pick the toughest issue you can find, and Marcantonio will be there on the side of the people—even when most so-called "liberals" feel a chill in the air and start running for cover.

He fought the Dies Committee from the start, even when it scared off most other Congressmen. He leads the fight for polltax repeal, for FEPC, winning the hatred of the bosses and their polltax stooges for doing it. He also led the fight against the Case and Truman bills.

On foreign policy, Marcantonio stands for Big Three unity, against the "get tough" line that is so dangerous to the peace of the world.

FTA Local 273 is campaigning hard, with the rest of labor and progressive forces, for the return of Marc to the 80th Congress and for more and better struggles in the interests of the common people.

* * *

WILLIAM GREEN

Democrat, 5th District, Pennsylvania

Bill Green is one of the few Congressmen who knows without being told. When the House was stampeded into voting for Truman's strikebreaking bill, he was one of only 13 who voted against it. He told some of his constituents later that the issue was very simple to him; this was a bill to cripple labor and he did not propose to vote against labor.

While some other halfway liberal congressmen were saying that maybe Truman's earlier "fact finding" bill wasn't so bad, Green saw right away that it would be used as a vehicle for vicious amendments and voted against it.

Green is a veteran of World War II and he knows the score. When Rep. John E. Rankin (D., Miss.) tried to sell out the veterans with a bill which would have allowed employers to ignore union contract provisions in employing them, Green fought against it.

Many Congressmen said they were in favor of wage increases when the CIO strikes of last winter were in progress. They said they were in favor of wage increases, BUT . . . Rep. Green had no "buts." He signed a petition demanding increases for organized labor. He signed the petition to bring FEPC to a vote.

You can't find a wrong vote or an absence on an important vote in his record.

IT'S ISSUES THAT COUNT

By Elizabeth Sasuly FTA Washington Representative

The Congressman you elect November 5 is going to be a busy man for the next two years. If he is elected to the 80th Congress by labor and other progressives, and if the people who elect him keep in close touch with him, he will be busy fighting for you. If the other kind of Congressman gets in, he will be just as busy fighting against you.

Contrary to the newspapers, neither CIO nor FTA has a purge list. In each congressional district our members, together with the rest of the CIO, decide if a candidate is to be supported or opposed on the basis of his record.

The record is made up of his stand on issues—his votes, speeches, actions in committee, and whether he just goes along in a luke-warm way or really gets out and fights for such things as a decent minimum wage, price control, a peace policy and against legislation like the Case bill, the Truman bill and the Elliott rider, to kill unions.

We are giving you here three examples of good Congressmen and three examples of bad ones. In the case of every man listed here, a hot campaign for or against is now going on, and in each of the congressional districts listed there are FTA locals.

Similar campaigns to elect good Congressmen and defeat bad ones are going on all over the country — except in the South where under the one-party system the primaries have already decided who is elected.

You have only a few days between now and November 5 to work and mobilize the people of your congressional district to keep the men who fought the good fight IN and turn as many of the rascals OUT as we possibly can.

GEORGE E. OUTLAND

Democrat, 11th District, California

In 1942, Rep. Outland was elected to Congress from what is called a "rural" district in California. But the "farmers" in the Salinas-Watsonville valleys are big grower-shippers who fought unions in the packingsheds with teargas until FTA Local 78 got too big and strong for them. They still want to run the show politically.

Instead of kowtowing to these agricultural processing interests and taking his place in the phoney "farm" bloc, Outland has represented the interests of the majority of people in his district. He has an almost perfect voting record, but that's only part of the story.

FTA knows that the immediate interests of its own members are tied up with Outland's re-election. He led the fight against the Lea rider in 1945 and carried the ball on the Elliott rider which would have taken Wagner Act benefits from packingshed workers. He introduced a bill to give packingshed workers the social security benefits which were taken away from them in 1939.

Local 78 is well aware of Outland's record and is campaigning actively for him. They know that not only they, but all the people in his district need him in Congress.

As a member of the Banking and Currency Committee, he has fought from start to finish for price control. It's important to remember that Outland and men like him can't be blamed for the way Congress took orders from the profiteers and sold the people down the river on this issue. In the same committee, Outland fought until the day Congress adjourned to get the Wagner Housing bill reported and acted on.

One of the most important tests of a really good congressman is whether he waits for somebody else to take the lead or whether he gets out and hustles himself. Outland is high on the list of those who give leadership to other congressmen.

He organized the Congressional sponsors of the Full Employment bill and set up a similar group of sponsors of the 65-75c minimum wage bill.

BERTRAND GEARHART

Rep., 9th District, California

Here is a California representative whose record is the exact opposite of Outland's. They both represent districts in which cannery and packingshed workers make up an important section of their constituents. But while Outland serves the majority of the people in his district, Gearhart confines his activities to representing their employers, as the members of FTA Locals 78 and 82 well know.

Gearhart voted wrong on nine of 12 issues most important to labor. He skipped votes on the others which included the Case bill and the Elliott rider.

Gearhart seldom speaks on the floor of the House. He has been a member of the House for 12 years and he knows how to do his dirty work in the powerful Ways and Means Committee, of which he is a member, without being crude about it out in the open.

The Ways and Means Committee handles all taxation and social security legislation—in other words, it decides who should pay more taxes—workers who live on small incomes, or employers; whether packingshed and agriculture workers should be covered by old age insurance, and if this security for old age should be more than a small pittance.

Gearhart was part of the Republican bloc which saw to it that the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill never even came up for hearings.

Not content with that, when the Committee took up various aspects of social security legislation piecemeal, he went out of his way to help the representative of the National Association of Manufacturers build a case against the whole social security program, which he called "a government racket."

Gearhart did not raise his voice in support of Outland's bill extending social security to packingshed workers, but he voted for the tax refund bill which enables corporations to get money from the U.S. Treasury to break strikes.

Gearhart's biography in the Congressional Directory boasts proudly that he has never had "major party opposition", but this year the people in his district have a chance to vote for liberal Hubert Phillips who won the Democratic party nomination.

THAD WASIELEWSKI

Dem., 4th District, Wisconsin

This election is an example of one with a choice between a Congressman who looks fairly good if you don't go any further than his voting record.

Wasielewski has been in Congress since 1940 and has had labor support in the past. This year we are not supporting him. His opponent is Eddie Bobrowicz, a member of the CIO Fur Workers Union, who won the Democratic nomination.

Bobrowicz is a veteran with five battle stars, but big business in Milwaukee is not impressed with this record; they are throwing everything into the campaign against him.

We're not supporting Wasielewski this time because he has a spotty voting record (he voted wrong on two out of three price control votes, on the Hobbs bill and on returning USES to the states, but right on a number of other issues) and because he has been a consistent opponent of Big Three Unity.

Even if Wasielewski's voting record were better than it is, labor would gain nothing by putting a man in Congress who spends a good portion of his time trying to make relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union as bad as they can be. You can't defend labor's rights at home and go down the line for World War III. Men who take this path will create a situation where labor will have no rights.

If we elect Bobrowicz, we'll have a man fighting for us who will put CIO policy into action in Congress. And that means foreign as well as domestic policy.

Workers and progressives in Milwaukee are getting a liberal education in red baiting in the campaign to elect Bobrowicz and defeat both Wasielewski and the Republican candidate.

Redbaiting is just about all that the two men have to offer by way of "program." In this, they take their lead from the most reactionary leaders of the GOP, who have made the false cry of "Communism" their number one campaign slogan.

And redbaiting in a Congressional campaign means the same thing it means in a union election campaign—a cloak for the boss's stooges to creep into power.

HENRY O. TALLE

Republican, 2nd District, Iowa

Rep. Talle is one of those many quiet, vicious reactionary Republicans of whom we have an extra supply in Congress. He isn't one you read about in the papers often, but he is in there doing a job against labor, day in and day out. He rarely misses a vote.

The people in his district have become aware of this, even if their Congressman doesn't make the papers all over the country with his bad votes. Local 110, together with the rest of the CIO in Cedar Rapids has been conducting an active campaign to defeat Talle. They are supporting Richard Barnhart, a naval veteran of World War II who has pledged to support the Roosevelt program.

PAC is a new job in Cedar Rapids and it is being done with a lot of energy.

Here are some things about Talle that make FTA members and others in his district fighting mad: while he doesn't speak a lot on the floor of the House, he has made some strong remarks on one subject—the virtues of free enterprise and the terrible future we will face if we have government planning and control.

In order to understand exactly what Rep. Talle means by this, you have to look at what he does. He is a member of the Banking and Currency Committee where he was part of the Republican bloc responsible for killing the Wagner Housing bill in Committee.

He voted against price ceilings on existing houses in the Patman Veteran's Housing bill, and against price control every time he got a chance, in and out of Committee.

To Rep. Talle, housing for veterans and prices people can pay, seem to be a plot against our system of government, or "free enterprise" as he calls it.

Needless to say, the rest of his record is along the same lines. On 12 key issues, he was 100 percent wrong.

THE JOB FOR US

FTA News presents these six Congressmen not because they're the only ones labor is interested in—either from the point of view of defeating or electing them.

They're presented as representing the two kinds of Congressmen facing us on November 5.

Based on the record, which is the way all CIO and all progressives base their decisions, we decide whether to support them or to fight them.

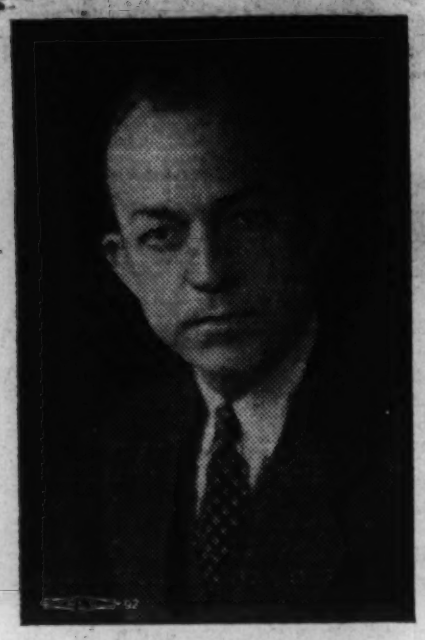
But we have to do a great deal more than simply look at the record and make up our own minds how to vote.

We have to help get out the vote. We have to work with our neighbors, our friends, our shopmates to turn out the biggest vote in Congressional history.

When the people vote, the people win.

REMEMBER NOVEMBER 5!

GET OUT THE VOTE



DONALD HENDERSON

The biggest and most important job before every FTA officer, leader and member between now and November 5 is to get out the vote on Election Day.

The main hope of reaction in 1946 is a light vote. If workers and progressives stay home on Election Day, that hope will be realized.

If we vote, in large numbers, if we work with our families, our friends, our shopmates, our neighbors to get out a big vote, the reactionaries' hope will be defeated.

Let's not kid ourselves. Reactionary Republicans and their tory friends among the Democrats plan to make this next Congress—if they win—the most anti-labor, anti-progressive Congress the country has ever known.

The attacks on labor in the 79th Congress just ending, the wrecking of price control, the incitement to war and fascist oppression will look liberal compared to a reactionary-dominated 80th Congress taking office next January.

Nobody claims that we got much out of the 79th Congress. FTA especially was the target of an all-out offensive against the right to organize, when a GOP-tory Democrat gang tried to pass the Elliott rider robbing us of the Wagner Act

Like every other worker, FTA members were the target of atrocious asaults on labor when the 79th Congress voted on the Case bill, the Truman anti-union bill, and others like them.

Like every other worker, FTA members were victimized by the 79th Congress when it wrecked OPA, when it scuttled housing, national health, social security, the 65c minimum wage bill, poll-tax repeal, and on down the list.

But this will seem like a mere warm-up if reaction takes complete control of Congress after November 5.

And that can happen—if the workers and their allies fail to vote on Election Day.

Between now and November 5, every FTA member should work to get out the largest possible vote for progressive candidates, against reactionaries.

Remember; when the people fail to vote, the people lose.

When the people vote, the people win.

DONALD HENDERSON
President
HAROLD J. LANE,
Secretary-Treasurer

HAROLD J. LANE

MILLIONS LOSE AID

(FP)—The alarming fact that almost half of America's working force is not covered by unemployment compensation was underscored Oct. 21 as the Federal Security Agency reported that increased employment from March through June has brought covered employment up to a new postwar high mark of 29,200,000.

The contrast between this figure and Reconversion Director John R. Steelman's statement of Oct. 3 that there were 58 million persons at work in the U. S. shows that state unemployment compensation laws by no means protect American workers from unemployment.

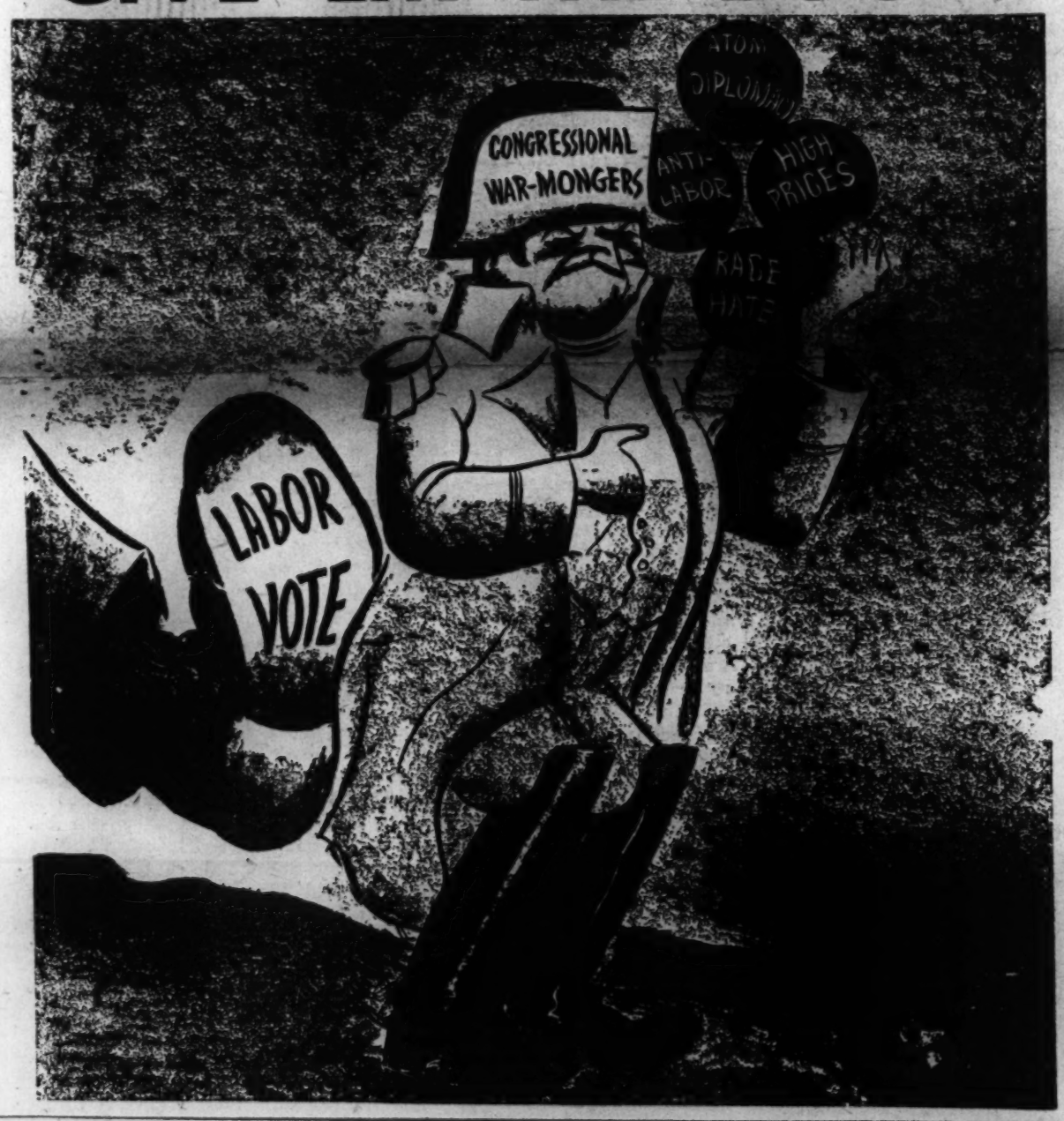
Many state laws exempt small firms and deep sea maritime employment from coverage, FSA said. Other categories not covered are 5.6 million non-agricultural self-employed persons; 9.9 million agricultural workers, including 5.3 million self-employed farmers; 1.6 million domestic workers; and 700,000 employes of non-profit institutions.

The five million government workers, many of whom are being laid off by postwar agency adjustment, have a very limited protection in the form of severance pay.

Extension of protection is one of the main goals of the forces pushing for a thorough overhauling of the act in the 80th Congress. Although unemployment compensation is administered under state laws, Congress has the power to broaden coverage by amending the social security act to make funds available to the states for new categories of workers.

The G.I. bill of rights offers an additional amount of protection for veterans through its $20 weekly unemployment compensation provision, some of which will be paid to unemployed veterans in lines of work not already covered. The 52-week limit, however, eliminates it as a long-range legislative help to the compensation picture.

GIVE 'EM THE BOOT!



CIO SEEKS PAY RAISE

(FP)—Wage increases keyed to the rise in living costs will be demanded by the United Auto Workers (CIO) from all companies with wage-reporter clauses in their contracts, the union's executive board announced here Oct. 20 in a wage policy statement.

The statement, worked out in consultation with CIO Pres. Philip Murray, was seen as a possible key to the CIO's forthcoming wage program, just as the UAW's acceptance early this year of an 18½c hourly increase set the pattern for subsequent CIO demands.

Although Murray told a press conference that the CIO convention at Atlantic City Nov. 18 would formulate its own general wage strategy, he agreed it would be "a reasonable assumption" to presume that the UAW program might establish a pattern to be followed by other unions.

The UAW statement did not specify a figure to be demanded of the auto magnates but declared any raises would have to be geared to rising living costs. The first of such demands will be made against the Chrysler Corp., which was notified of the intention to seek wage adjustments under the 60-day reopening clause in its contract. The 60-day period expired Oct. 19.

UAW Pres. Walter P. Reuther pointed out that it would be impossible to specify the increases to be asked, since living costs have been skyrocketing at such a rate as to make advance formulation possible.

Any increases demanded, the executive board statement pointed out, should not necessitate further price increases.

"The fact that automobile companies are able to make a profit on the low and irregular schedules at which they are operating," the statement said, "furnishes dramatic proof of the high profit basis that has been established for this industry under OPA price ceilings.

SEN. PHIL I. BLUSTER